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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/560,393

Examiner

Guy G. Anderson

Applicant(s)

KAWAI ET AL.

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/13/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



BRIAN HEALY
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 12/13/2005 & 1/30/2007.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

- 1.1 The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant application is deemed to be directed towards a non-obvious improvement over the invention patented in U.S. Patent No. 6133980 to Faris.
- 1.2 Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a the first optical film includes: a retardation film A1 having a relation of $n_z > n_x > n_y$; and a retardation film B having in-plane retardation (R_e) in the range of from 200 to 300 nm, a relation of $n_x > n_z > n_y$ and satisfying N_z coefficient in the range of 0.3 N_z 0.7, in which three-dimensional refractive indices are controlled; the second optical film includes a retardation film A2 having a relation of $n_z > n_x > n_y$; and the slow axis of the retardation film B is in parallel with or perpendicular to the absorption axes of the first and second polarizing plates, where, in each of the films, the direction along with the in-plane refractive index in the film plane is maximized is defined as the X axis, the direction perpendicular to the X axis is defined as the Y axis, the direction of the thickness of the film is defined by the Z axis, and refractive indices in each axial directions at $[[550]]$ 590 nm are defined as n_x , n_y and n_z , respectively, and the thickness of the film is defined as d (nm), the in-plane retardation (R_e) and N_z are given by the following equations: in-plane retardation (R_e) = $(n_x - n_y) \times d$ and $N_z = (n_x - n_z)/(n_x - n_y)$.
- 1.3 Claims 2-6 depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 1 and are thus also allowable.
- 1.4 Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
- 1.5 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guy G. Anderson whose telephone number is 571.272.8045. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Saturday 0900-2200.

- 1.6 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on 571.272.2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
- 1.7 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.
- 1.8 Date and signature of assistant examiner.



December 21, 2007



BRIAN HEALY
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER